

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – November 19, 2004

Contact Ted Vollmuth at 645-7038

### **COLUMBUS ELECTRIC DIVISION OFFERS “CENTS-ABLE” WAYS TO SAVE MONEY THIS WINTER**

COLUMBUS, OHIO – It won't be long before the snow falls as temperatures drop in Central Ohio. Of course, when the really cold weather comes the costs of winter heating go up as the temperatures drop. The Columbus Division of Electricity wants to help you keep your heating costs reasonable while staying warm this winter.

“These few simple suggestions can save you on your heating bill,” said Division public information officer Ted Vollmuth. “This means money in your pocket, not out the vents of our house.”

- Set your thermostat to 68 degrees, lower at night or when you're away (each degree adds 4 percent to your bill). If possible, install a programmable thermostat.
- Insulate your hot water tank and pipes – you can cut heating costs by up to 10 percent. Also, be sure to insulate your attic for cost-effective savings.
- Lower the temperature on your water heater to 115-120 degrees and install an energy saving showerhead to reduce the water costs by up to 15%.
- Be sure to use weather stripping around doors and caulk windows sills; also, seal windows with plastic to keep drafts out.
- Replace your furnace filter often – at least every two to three months (a dirty or clogged filter makes your furnace work harder, costing you more money).
- Close the chimney damper when your fireplace is not in use and install glass fireplace doors to greatly improve efficiency.
- Keep curtains closed on windy days and at night, but open curtains on sunny days to take advantage of natural solar heat.
- Avoid blocking registers with drapes or furniture. Also, close registers in any unused rooms. (However, don't shut vents if you have a heat pump)

An energy-efficient home is not only comfortable, but economical too. Take a little time and effort to make a few changes. This will lead the sound of more change in your pockets.